

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/822,547

Applicant(s)

MOLNAR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Eric Pico

3654

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/28/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-10, 14, 16-19 and 42-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are patentable over the prior art of record, because the teachings of the references taken as a whole, do not show or render obvious the combination set forth in **claim 1** "wherein said rack is comprised of a plurality of sections, each of said sections comprising a plastic molded body having a base and a plurality of teeth extending from said base, each tooth including a thrust surface sized and shaped to have sliding contact with a thread from a worm gear, said body further including a reinforcing element, and wherein said reinforcing element for said section is a metal reinforcing element and provides dimensional stability to said plastic molded body under load, and wherein said section is molded with a void and said reinforcing element is sized and shaped to fit into said void", **claim 42** "a single plastic fixed rack having teeth sized and shaped to be engaged by said threaded spiral drive element, said rack being reinforced, wherein said fixed rack comprised of a plurality of track sections, each of said track sections comprising a plastic molded body having a base and a plurality of teeth extending from said base, each tooth including a thrust surface sized and shaped to having sliding contact with a thread from a worm gear, said body further including a reinforcing element, and wherein said reinforcing element for said section is a metal reinforcing element and provides dimensional stability to said plastic molded body under load, and wherein track section is molded with a void and said reinforcing element is

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sized and shaped to fit into said void", and **claim 44** "wherein said fixed rack is comprised of a plurality of sections, each of said sections comprising a plastic molded body having a base and a plurality of teeth extending from said base, each tooth including a thrust surface sized and shaped to have sliding contact with a thread from a worm gear, said body further including a reinforcing element, and wherein said base of each of said sections further includes shoulders for retaining said section in a track".


### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Pico whose telephone number is 571-272-5589.

The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30AM - 3:00PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on 571-272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
**Peter M. Cuomo**  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 3800

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